



SHOPTALK



Off-Site Fire Caused By Laptop Computer Batteries



What Happened?

- Jacobs Engineering issued a safety alert concerning Compaq laptop computer models Armada E500 and V300, following a December fire in their Denver office.
- An employee was using a Compaq Armada E500 laptop, powered by an electrical cord plugged into a wall outlet. He heard a hissing sound; then the battery compartment exploded, shooting debris from the battery compartment. No one was injured, but smoke and soot covered the area and minor property damage occurred. The battery that overheated & exploded (ID# TCHK96943-DNI) was not on the manufacturer's list of recalled defective battery packs.

What Can Be Done?

- Check the white label to the right of the battery pack connector to find the 4-letter date code and 5-digit serial number; ignore the last 3 digits after the serial number. If the Armada E500 or V300 9-cell battery pack does not have a label in that location, or does not match the date codes & serial numbers below, it does not require replacement.
- Compaq instructs customers to immediately discontinue use of a recalled battery pack by discharging the batteries, removing the pack from the computer, and ordering a replacement.

Date Code	Serial Number Range Recalled By Manufacturer
TCGK	00001 - 10500
TCGK	20001 - 21800
TCGK	40001 - 83100
TCHK	4001 - 44700